RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 5th November, 1986
14 *Kartika*, 1908 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 21

Linking of pilgrim centres by helicopter services

*21. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link the various pilgrim centres in the country by helicopter services; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A survy was conducted which had proposed connecting certain places of pilgrimage by helicopter services. Helicopters acquired by the Helicopter Corporation of India Ltd. (HCIL) will initially be used mainly for providing air transportation of men and material for the off-shore operations of the ONGC. Helicopters will also be provided to State Governments and Union Torritories, *inter-alia*, to serve as a commuter service, on lease rentals for hilly and inaccessible areas. After these priorities are met, HCIL will consider providing scheduled or charter service for tourist centres or varioits plinrim centres depending on the availability of capacity, the necessary infrastructure and economic viability of operations.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the exact year for providing scheduled or charter service for tourist centres or various pilgrim centres in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member wants to know from when you are going to introduce scheduled or charter service?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: As I said just now, our first priority for operating helicopters is ONGC. The second priority is the North-Eastern region. The third priority is all those States which would like to run the pilgrimage specials by helicopters. But we will be providing helicopters only after we have fulfilled our commitments to ONGC and North-Eastern region.

As regards pilgrim centres to be connected by helicopter service, we have received a request from only Uttar Pradesh Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister, whether Srisailam and Simhachalam pilgrim centres in Andhra Pradesh will be covered by the helicopter service?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you thinking to Srisailam and Simhachalam pilgrim centres in Andhra Pradesh to be connected with helicopter service?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, as I said just now, we will cover pilgrim centres subject to the availability of aircrafts.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: But you have said that you received a request only from the U. P. Government.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I said that the Uttar Pradesh Government is the only State Government which has given a proposal.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Of course, it is necessary for U. P. Government because of Badrinath and Kedarnath pilgrem centres.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, would the Minister kindly enlighten us as to how many kinds of helicopters he is going to use for ONGC and North-Eastern region? Are they going to be imported or are they going to be manufactured indigenously?

Whether the Minister is considering any regular taxi service for helicopters to be used by the people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not yet decided to have it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, there are only two kinds of helicopters—(i) Dornier; and (ii) Westland We have negotiated only for these two helicopters. From 1st of January I will be taking over the agricultural civil aviation also by the Vayudoot Service. In all they have got eight helicopters. I do not know what kinds of helicopters they have got. But I will be using these also.

श्री शरद यादव : मान्यवर, मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि तीर्थ स्थानों को हेलीकोप्टर से जोड़ने की योजना है। यह तो ठीक है, लेकिन जहां पर तीर्थ स्थान हैं, जैसे जबलपुर में महिहर की देवी और चौसठ योगिनी तीर्थ स्थान हैं, वहां पर बहुत कम सुविधाएं हैं। आपने एयर फ्लाइट की वहां पर जो सुविधा मिली हुई थी उसको भी छीन लिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय का क्या कहना है ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the question relates to helicopters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is about helicopters.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It will be kind enough if the Member writes to me so that I can look into this.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, among the various piligrim centres in the country, Vaishno Devi pilegrem centre is very important. 15 lakh pilgrims visits this centre every year and it is at a height of 6.000 feet. The late Prime Minister also visited Vaishno Devi and the ex-President also visited. Will the hon'ble Minister include Vaishno Devi in the list of Helicopter Service?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, Vaishno Devi, is our first priority.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, अपने देश में बौद्ध धर्मावलम्बियों के कुछ ऐसे तीर्थ स्थान हैं जिनमें विदेशों से, जापान से, थाइलैंड से या अन्य देशों से लोग आते हैं जैसे कि बोध गया है, राजगीर है। अगर इन जगहों के लिये वायुदूत या हैलीकोप्टर सेवा उपलब्ध हो तो इससे इस देश को फारेन एक्सचेंज मिल सकता है। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि इन तीर्थ स्थानों को वायुदूत या हैलीकोप्टर सेवा से जोड़ने के बारे में सरकार का क्या ख्याल है और इस बारे में सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: There is no proposal to connect Rajgir, the Buddhist centre with the helicopter. I would like to inform you which probably would be easy also that the Vayudoot is considering and it is already negotiating with certain Helicopter concern in Japan. The Air India has already got a hotel there. Lot of Buddhist tourists and pilgrims would like to come to Rajgir. So, we are already negotiating with some people so that as soon as they arrive in Calcutta, from Calcutta, we pick them up by special flight by Vayudoot and bring them to these pilgrim centres.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, there is a scheme of Air Taxi. How do they fit into the picture and what are the details about that?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the Air Taxi is a completely different thing from the Helicopter Corporation. The Air Taxi service has been announced only three days back. We announced rules and regulations after the Cabinet has given the approval. Anybody who has an aircraft which is registered in the country and has the capacity of ten seats, any aircraft which is made in India, that is

like Dornier that is 19 seater, can apply for a taxi licence and we will allow. Anybody who comes, must have an aircraft registered in the country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, Badrinath and Kedarnath shrines are very important among Hindus all over India. Is the Government considering any Helicopter service from Lucknow to Badrinath-Kedarnath or from Delhi?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, one of the proposals from U.P. Nigam had come. Probably, we cannot go to Badrinath but, we are so planning that we could go up to Joshimath because beyond that, oxygen is required and the pay load of the helicopter also becomes very less. Commercially it may not be viable. But up to joshimath, we have a plan and as soon as the availability of the aircraft is there, we would do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have exhausted all the pilgrim centres.

Vaccine for whooping cough

*22. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:†

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new vaccine has been developed or improvement made in existing vaccines for whooping cough by Indian scientists during last five years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating where it is being used and how much of it has been manufactured so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) India is self-sufficient in regard to the production of pertussis vaccine. The question of taking up the manufacture of new and improved vaccine is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any plan with the Government to immunise all the children by 1990. If so, how many have been covered so far?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this is concerning a particular vaccine. Of course, generally, I could say: "Yes, there is a total immunisation programme which is to be completed by 1990". But this question pertains to a particular vaccine. About that, I would like to say that we will continue to be self-sufficient in this vaccine and there will be no difficulty about that. What is now being attempted is to see if this could be further improved. There are certain improved varieties. All the pros and cons are being examined.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति जी, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो काली खांसी है, इसका कभी सरकार ने सर्वेक्षण किया है कि साल में कितने बच्चों को यह होती है और उनके इम्यूनाइजेशन के लिए कितने टीके की आवश्यकता है ? जब तक आपको इसका पता नहीं चलेगा तब तक इलाज नहीं किया जा सकेगा । माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि तीन डोज की वेक्सीन बच्चों के लिए आवश्यक है, इसलिए उनकी भी निश्चित सप्लाई के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : श्रीमन्, यह बिल्कुल निश्चित अनुमान लगाया गया है और पूरे हिसाब के बाद ही मैं कह रहा हूं कि हम आत्म-निर्भर हैं ।

Regarding the requirement and production of this vaccine, in 1985-86 the production was 680 lakh doses. The requirement was 500 lakh doses, according to the programme.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Talari Manohar.